

YORK COUNTY BRIDGE NO. 149
Pentland Road (T-370) over East Branch
Codorus Creek
Jefferson Vicinity
York County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-276

HAER
PA
67-JEFF.V
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
Northeast Region
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

YORK COUNTY BRIDGE NO. 149

HAER No. PA-276

HAER
PA
67-JEFF, V
1-

Location: Pentland Road (T-370) over East Branch
Codorus Creek,
Jefferson Vicinity,
York County, Pennsylvania

UTM: 18.340530.4407100
Quad: Seven Valleys, PA, 1:24,000

Date of Construction: 1913

Engineer: Charles A. Williams

Builder: G.A. & F.M. Wagman

Present Owner: York County Board of Commissioners
One West Marketway, Fourth Floor
York, PA 17401

Present Use: Vehicular bridge

Significance: This reinforced concrete arch structure is one of twelve (12) similar bridges currently owned and maintained by York County. Fourteen (14) concrete arch structures are currently in use in York County. This concrete arch is representative of bridge structures built at that time throughout the County.

Project Information: An evaluation (1991) advised replacement of the structure. To mitigate the adverse effect, the State Historic Preservation Office stipulated recordation of this structure. Recordation was performed to fulfill this requirement.

William F. Sauers, P.E.
C. S. Davidson, Inc.
Consulting Civil Engineers
38 North Duke Street
York, PA 17401

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF BRIDGE AND SETTING

This bridge carries Pentland Road (T-370) between Sinsheim and Smoketown Road approximately 2 miles southwest of Jefferson, PA. The road crosses the East Branch of the Codorus Creek in three places including this single span reinforced concrete arch. The overall structure length is 88' with a 40' clear span at the arch springline and a maximum vertical underclearance of 7'. The wearing surface is bituminous with a clear deck width between the parapets of 14'0".

Pentland Road and the tracks of the Western Maryland Railway parallel the waterway. Approximately 100' downstream is a steel bridge carrying the railroad tracks over the waterway. Just upstream and east of the structure is the White Rose Motorcycle Club's Jefferson Hill Climb site where regular competitions are held.

Codorus and Manheim Townships are mostly rural areas in southwestern York County, consisting of wooded areas and farms. Open fields and pastures surround the bridge location.

HISTORY OF THE STRUCTURE

In 1912, the residents of Codorus and Manheim Townships petitioned the County of Quarter Sessions of the Peace of York County to appoint viewers to view a site for a bridge across the Codorus Creek at a point between Brodbeck's Station and New Sinsheim. The public road crossed the creek at this point but no bridge existed. The expense to construct a bridge was too burdensome for either township to bear. The Court-appointed viewers, after viewing the site and interviewing citizens of both townships, recommended that a bridge be erected at the site. A grand jury therefore recommended that the County erect a bridge at the location.

On July 31, 1913, bids for the construction of several County bridges, including this bridge, were opened. On August 4, 1913, the contract for constructing this bridge was awarded to G.A. & F.M. Wagman at their low bid of \$1,625.00. At this same meeting, Wagman was awarded the contracts to construct three other reinforced concrete bridges for York County.

According to the plaque on the bridge parapet, Charles A. Williams was the engineer. Williams was born in 1873 on the family farm in Gladfelter's Station in York County. He designed and constructed many commercial, public and residential buildings in southern York County, as well as numerous bridges located in York and Adams Counties. Williams designed five single span stone masonry arches and four other reinforced concrete arches for the County of York, all between 1912 and 1919. The other bridges he designed were for the State of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Williams was a partner in the firm of G.A. & F.M. Wagman from 1919 until 1929. Following retirement, Williams designed and constructed several private homes and represented the Farm Bureau Insurance Company. He was also the Springfield Township Justice of the Peace and an active member of Salem Lutheran Church in Jacobus, where he was buried in 1950.

G.A. & F.M. Wagman was founded in 1909 by George Aloysius Wagman and his brother, Fred. It began by constructing concrete bridges, continuing what George A. Wagman had been doing since 1907. In addition to concrete bridges in southcentral and eastern Pennsylvania, they constructed several small dams throughout the area and a water reservoir in Chambersburg. For a short time, the company incorporated as G.A. & F.M. Wagman Engineering Company with Charles A. Williams as a partner. After a few unsuccessful jobs, the Wagnans bought Williams' one-third interest in the company and the company went back to the name of G.A. & F.M. Wagman. In 1948, the name was changed to G.A. & F.C. Wagman, which is the name it still operates under today, with its main office located in York, Pennsylvania.

G.A. & F.M. Wagman continued to successfully bid and construct bridges of all kinds for the Pennsylvania Department of Highways and the Pennsylvania Railroad, developing a very good reputation with both agencies. Wagman constructed two (2) other single-span reinforced concrete arches as well as two (2) reinforced concrete T-beams and one (1) two-span riveted thru girder bridge for York County. It is possible they built more than these for York County since some of the bridges do not have plaques and some records are missing.

Since its construction, the bridge has been open to all vehicular traffic. It remains open and unposted.

The bridge is significant due to its structure type. There are a total of fourteen (14) locally-owned reinforced concrete arch structures located in York County.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Engineering Drawings

C. S. Davidson, Inc., 1993, measured drawings, Bridge Inspection Program.

York County Archives, 1913, drawing by Charles A. Williams.

B. Historic Views

Photograph, January 19, 1926, located in York County Archives, Bridge Book No. 1.

C. Bibliography

York County Archives, Clerk of Courts Road Papers No. 3, October, 1912.

York County Archives, Clerk of Courts Road Docket No. 27, Codorus and Manheim Townships, October 1912.

York County Archives, York County Board of Commissioners meeting minutes, July 7, 1913, July 31, 1913 and August 4, 1913.

Historical Society of York, Collection No. 30075.

Autobiography of George Aloysius Wagman (1948).